

Some people have the idea you can keep a living organism from growing old. Maybe some people, through money and surgery appear not to age, but they do age. That "stop-aging" or use attitude leads to fuel for wildfires, disease and starvation in animals, and imbalance in nature. To the people who take on a specific issue, you appear to forget an issue is not the book of life but a single page and until you can see all of life don't kill it with an issue, as is now happening. Closure does not guarantee protection, only lack of observation, thus allowing good conditions to go bad until it is all destroyed. On the other hand, careful harvesting, replanting, and maintenance does protect. It keeps it renewing and healthy. The cartoon, in *Wed*, Aug. 23, by Deering would have had a better caption of "what is this stuff?" "It is what's left when the environmentalists" protect the environment." I'll bet the burned bear cub (Signey) would prefer his mother protecting him and not some short sighted environmentalists.

We can't use and abuse, but we can harvest, replant, and maintain so Mother Nature doesn't have to do on a big scale what we should have done a little at a time.

Personally, I'd rather see the timber used to build (at a reasonable price, with jobs) than as smoke, ashes and charred pieces in mud to smother our wildlife and fish come the next rain. If our "do-gooders" would quit looking at a single page of aging life and work with the folks who would, with responsibility, harvest, replant, and maintain, we'd not need the tears of regret when Mother Nature has to manage.

H.R. DAVIS,  
*Riverton.*

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I will take an opportunity at a later time to talk about lack of policy on Social Security. I would like to address the type of accounting we have where we are kind of fudging some things that will cost future generations their Social Security unless we take some action now.

We also need to take some action in the area of paying down the debt, tax policy, and education policy. If we don't address these policies using foresight instead of hindsight, if we don't do policy instead of polls, we are going to run into a situation similar to what we had when we hired 100,000 new teachers and then discovered we didn't have buildings to put them in. That was easy to solve; we just threw in a little more money. We put more buildings in there, except we are putting buildings in places where the voters themselves chose not to put buildings.

I hope we will look at policy.

I thank the Senator from West Virginia for his courtesy in letting me put those letters in the RECORD.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

#### RETIREMENT OF ARTHUR MALAN "TINKER" ST. CLAIR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, my State of West Virginia has provided to our Nation numerous individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service.

Some have appeared, for a time, in the national spotlight. Others have labored quietly behind the scenes. One such individual, who has for more than 50 years contributed to the betterment of his community, his State, and his country, sits among us today in this Senate Chamber. Arthur Malan St. Clair, the senior Doorkeeper of the Senate, caught me by surprise recently when he handed me a letter informing me of his decision to retire from his post after serving this body since 1979. Arthur St. Clair, better known to us Senators as "Tinker," has served the Senate with distinction for 21 years.

But that is just a small part of his remarkable story. Now, speculation as to the age of another person is always something to be approached with some temerity, and not often approached, as a matter of fact. But there has been speculation as to Tinker's age. It has been a hot topic of debate among some Senators and Senator's staffs for a number of years. I understand, however, that Tinker is finally willing to let that particular cat out of the bag.

So, for the benefit of the curious, I shall start at the beginning: Tinker St. Clair was born in Pageton, McDowell County, West Virginia, in 1916. As his colleagues on the doors may be quickly calculating, that will make Tinker 85 years come next January.

Tinker was the son of a coal miner, small businessman, and local school board member. He was reared in what he is often heard to call the "free State of McDowell."

It is a county located in southern West Virginia right on the borderline there. It used to have a population of about right at 100,000 people. Today it has probably 30,000. It was a great coal mining county. When the mines took on mechanization and huge mining machines took the place of men, the population dropped. Many of the mines are worked out and are no longer mining coal. So it has become a county that, unfortunately, has many unemployed people who still live there.

That county is represented by NICK JOE RAHALL, who claims to be my Congressman because my voting residence is still at Sophia, WV, which is located in the congressional district represented by NICK RAHALL. NICK RAHALL has a lot of friends in those counties, and they are very proud of him as their representative. NICK and I often talk about Tinker St. Clair.

Tinker is from that great free state of McDowell. Back in those days, when McDowell County had almost 100,000 people, West Virginia had 97,600 farms and had 90,000 horses. The State of West Virginia had 90,000 horses and 6,000 mules. That was back in the days when Tinker was younger, I was younger, and McDowell County was more highly populated. Many of those 6,000 mules were used in the mines to pull the cars of coal.

I was trying to remember how much money was required to build that first capitol in West Virginia—not the first capitol; the first capitol burned down, but the capitol that replaced the capitol that burned down had gold leaf put upon it. That capitol was completed in February 1932. I will tell you what that capitol cost in 1932. Pay close attention: \$9,491,180.03. That was the total cost of that capitol. Any person traveling in West Virginia must stop and see that beautiful capitol. It would cost many times that much to build it today. It was completed in the heart of the Great Depression: \$9,491,180.03. That was a real bargain.

Well, McDowell County is in the heart of a region that is rich in coal and, more importantly, rich in the old values. It was in that environment that Tinker grew up. That was the environment in which he was raised. That was the environment in which he was instilled with patriotism and loyalty, honesty and determination and drive, and a strong sense of community.

Tinker graduated in 1937. That was the year in which I married. That was the year in which Erma and I married. I paid a hard-shell preacher \$10 to marry her and me. We have been married ever since, 63 years ago. Nineteen hundred and thirty-seven was the year Tinker graduated from Gary High School where he played football and baseball.

Upon graduation, Tinker worked as a schoolbus driver and later worked as a driver for the Consolidated Bus Lines. He came to own a taxi business that operated in the towns of Welch, Oceana, and Pineville. For anyone unfamiliar with those communities, I should note that driving a bus or a taxi along those particular local roads, around the winding hills and in the gulches and the valleys and the hollows, requires a real talent, courage, and certainly a strong stomach.

It was at about that time in his life—in fact, on May 25, 1940—that Tinker married Elnora J. Hall and they later became the proud parents of two daughters, Patty and Linda.

As we have all observed in the Senate, and as I have known for many years, Tinker is always cheerful—always cheerful. He always has a nice smile on his face. He is always a very personable individual. He is just down to Earth, a plain, honest, hard-working, fine Christian gentleman.

He is a "people person." We hear a lot of talk these days about "people persons." Well, he is a "people person." His entrance into the realm of politics and public service, therefore, was just plain natural. Beginning in 1948, Tinker's career included service as a deputy sheriff. When Tinker came to get you, you better go—you better go. He had that big .45 slung on his hip and he was an excellent marksman. You just

better go; better get ready. That fellow, the smiles, was the real Matt Dillon of McDowell County—Matt Dillon. And he was a court bailiff, criminal investigator for the prosecuting attorney, and justice of the peace.

In 1968, Tinker was elected county clerk, and he has held all the offices at the county level. That is where government starts, you know, at the county level. And he was overwhelmingly reelected in 1974, with 89 percent of the vote; 89 percent of the votes in a county that never, ever heard of a political machine.

Well, I better take that back, the part about a political machine; If there ever was a political machine, that was it, in McDowell County.

Well, anyhow, Tinker didn't need any machine. He had the votes—89 percent of the vote while running on the slogan, "The man to give the office back to the people." How about that for a slogan? If I had my political career to start over again, that is the slogan I would use, "The man to give the office back to the people."

It was in 1979, after serving 4 years of a 6-year term as county clerk, I received a telephone call. I will never forget that call. It came from Tinker. Over the phone, Tinker related to me a conversation that he had just had with Elnora. Elnora, as I recall it, had told Tinker that she was coming to Washington to visit their daughters and their grandchildren.

"Fine," said Tinker. "When will you be coming back?"

"I'm not," was the answer. "I'm not." She went on to say, "I miss the girls and the grandchildren and I'm going to Washington to stay."

Well, Tinker and I both knew that she meant business. And so I said to Tinker, "Well, you just come on up to Washington with Elnora, and we'll find work in my office somewhere for you."

That conversation took place during the first week of July, 1979. And on July 9, 1979, the Senate employed Tinker St. Clair as the newest member of our Senate family, and he has been a member of the Senate family ever since.

During his career, Tinker has played an important role in escorting leaders of this Nation throughout southern West Virginia. Nobody can escort one through southern West Virginia quite like Tinker. He walked with President Truman through the coal fields. He stood with candidate John F. Kennedy and campaigned with him in the hills and the hollows of West Virginia. And one time back home, he greeted a helicopter that was landing and he welcomed its passenger, Lyndon Baines Johnson. He was with another Kennedy—Bobby Kennedy—in 1968.

He traveled with another West Virginian, many times, day and night: ROBERT C. BYRD. He traveled with JAY ROCKEFELLER. And JAY can tell of trips

to Welch where he was greeted by the dapper and dedicated Tinker. And the late Senator Jennings Randolph often found at Elnora's supper table some fine pastries and goodies. And so was NICK RAHALL there, from time to time, in Tinker's house.

Many a campaign strategy was cooked up at Elnora's supper table. Tinker and Elnora, in fact, serve as proof that anyone with the determination and the desire to make a difference in this Nation can play a valuable role in the political arena.

It was on April 24, 1996, that Tinker lost his beloved Elnora. I was concerned for my friend. The sudden loss of his dear wife had to have been quite a blow. Yet Tinker handled that difficult personal tragedy with tremendous inner strength that is so indicative of people who have come up the hard way in West Virginia's coal mining communities.

So now it has come to pass, Mr. President, that Tinker St. Clair will be retiring, and I am glad for him that he will be able to spend more time with his daughters, Patty and Linda; and with his grandchildren, Kimberly and Eddie and Mack; and with his two great-grandsons, Nicholas and Jack.

But I must admit, it does sadden me to think of our daily labors in this Chamber without Tinker; He has given so much. We will all miss Tinker's ready smile, his warm handshake, his full head of white hair, and his warm and reassuring presence in the Senate Chamber.

He won't be leaving for a while yet, but the day will come when Tinker will walk out of the door for his last time. So I say goodbye to my fellow West Virginian, and my dear friend, with these words of verse:

#### WORD TO THE LIVING

It isn't enough that we say in our hearts  
That we like a man for his ways;  
And it isn't enough that we fill our minds  
With psalms of silent praise;  
Nor is it enough that we honor a man  
As our confidence upward mounts;  
It's going right up to the man himself  
And telling him so that counts.  
Then when a man does a deed that you really  
admire,

Don't leave a kind word unsaid,  
For fear to do so might make him vain  
Or cause him to lose his head;  
But reach out your hand and tell him, "Well  
done",

And see how his gratitude swells;  
It isn't the flowers we strew on the grave,  
It's the word to the living that tells.

I will say this to Tinker. I hope to serve 6 years more after this year in this Senate, but the sight of him back there on that bench will never fade from my view. I will always see him there. I will always see him returning my gaze and always with a smile. We will never, never forget him because he is the true symbol of service. And as the old saying goes: Service with a smile. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I consider myself very lucky to be on the floor right now. I thank Senator BYRD for his words. I cannot even come close to matching what my colleague from West Virginia said. I have not known Tinker a whole lifetime, but I will say this: What I know about Tinker today and every day, I say to Senator BYRD, is that he is the kind of person who, when we debate, when we come out on the floor to speak, and sometimes we do not necessarily get the votes we want—that happens sometimes; with me, more than sometimes—Tinker is the person who is always there to give encouragement, always there to say: You keep speaking out for what you believe; you keep at it; everything will be all right.

I appreciate Tinker's wisdom. I appreciate his help. I appreciate his commitment to service. I appreciate his commitment to West Virginia. Most important of all, I appreciate his patriotism, because to me he is a true patriot. A patriot is someone who takes a part of their life and gives it to their country, and he has done that. So I am honored to be on the floor at this time.

#### RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE F. VENTO OF MINNESOTA

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, before I leave today, I will finish with some words about another man, a former colleague of the Presiding Officer, Congressman VENTO.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 369 relating to the death of Congressman BRUCE VENTO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 369) relative to the death of Representative BRUCE F. VENTO, of Minnesota.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, the resolution goes on to read:

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Bruce F. Vento, late a Representative from the State of Minnesota.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That when the Senate adjourns or recesses today, it stand adjourned or recessed as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative.

This is in behalf of the majority leader, Senator LOTT, Senator DASCHLE, myself, and Senator GRAMS. I also add Senators DURBIN and FEINGOLD.